

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed July 11, 2007, the Examiner rejected all pending claims 1-25 and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0016804 (Sheha). To anticipate a claim, each and every element set forth in the claim must be found in a single reference. (MPEP § 2131). Applicants submit that Sheha does not teach each element of any of independent claims 1, 22 or 29.

The present application is directed to a method and system for conveying location-granularity preferences with location-based service requests. Location of a mobile station (and client stations in general) is a sensitive piece of information, and releasing it to random entities might pose security and privacy risks. The ability for a user to find others at any time is a powerful utility, but the ability for others to find the user at any time may be an uncomfortable notion for the user. People may not want to be stalked by strangers, suffocated by friends and family, or always locatable by business associates, for example. Further, at times people may not want to be located, or may want to restrict the accuracy at which they can be located. Thus, in an exemplary embodiment, a mechanism of providing location privacy options for a user is presented. The mechanism may take the form of a method including, within a client station, detecting a request to initiate a voice call, and responsive to the request, sending from the client station into a network a message indicating how to carry out a location-based service. In particular, the message may direct the network to determine (or not determine) a location of the client station. In addition, the message may indicate a location determination consent level of a user of the client station. (Specification, p. 2-6).

Applicants submit that Sheha does not teach “in a client station, detecting a request to initiate a voice call,” and “responsive to the request, sending from the client station into a

network a message indicating how to carry out a location-based service,” as in claim 1 and similarly in claims 22 and 29.

Within paragraphs 0041-0057, Sheha describes a vague method of transferring device location data over a network. According to Sheha, location data is either known already by the network or ascertained by the network from users. This location data is then sent out by the network when a call is made, when a call is received, when the location information is requested by another user, or when the system itself requests the location information. Sheha teaches using this location information for a variety of applications, including locating the navigational coordinates or street address of another user and obtaining driving directions. Sheha simply does not teach the Applicants’ claimed invention but instead teaches a type of location-based service.

Sheha does not teach “in a client station, detecting a request to initiate a voice call,” and “responsive to the request, sending from the client station into a network a message indicating how to carry out a location-based service,” as in claim 1 and similarly in claims 22 and 29. Absent from Sheha is any mention of a message sent from a client station indicating how to carry out a location-based service. In Sheha, the position information sent by call originators and receivers does not indicate how to carry out a location-based service. Rather, the information sent is the location data itself. (para. 0050, lines 1-6). Sheha neither teaches nor contemplates sending a message from the client station into the network that indicates how to carry out a location-based service. Instead, by transmitting the location data without instructions, Sheha creates one of the very situations that the invention claimed by the Applicants seeks to remedy. (See Specification p. 2-6)

Sheha is not directed to a method and system for conveying location-granularity preferences with location-based service requests, nor does Sheha contemplate location-granularity preferences sent by a client station. Sheha teaches that a mobile user may decide

whether or not to send any position information. (para 0046). However, the position information described by Sheha does not include location-granularity preferences, any indication of location-granularity preferences, or any other message indicating how to carry out a location-based service (e.g. claim 22).

For every pending claim, except claim 15, the Examiner cited to paragraphs within the range of 0020 and 0041-0053 as allegedly teaching the limitations. None of those paragraphs touch upon much of the subject matter contained in the claims. As a few examples, none of those paragraphs discuss a message indicating a location determination consent level of a user of the client station (as in claim 11) or providing a randomly adjusted location of the client station (as in claim 13). Applicants note that the Examiner cited to paragraphs 0135-0141 as allegedly teaching the limitations of claim 15. Applicants respectfully observe that Sheha does not contain paragraphs with the cited numbers of 0135-0141.

In sum, because Sheha does not teach all limitations of any of independent claims 1, 22 or 29, Sheha does not anticipate claims 1-25 and 29-30.

Applicants note that the Examiner has now issued six office actions against the present application, each of which has rejected all pending claims, and each time citing a new reference. Applicants hope to avoid piecemeal examination in the future and, should the Examiner find additional valid grounds for rejecting the claims, respectfully request that the Examiner present all such grounds. (See MPEP § 707.07(g)).

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the remarks above, all of rejections have been overcome. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the present rejections be

withdrawn and a Notice of Allowance be given. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (312) 913-3331 with any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

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